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Title : Need to prepare a comprehensive railway development plan with a separate Budget for Pondicherry.

PROF. M. RAMADASS (PONDICHERRY): The Union Territory of Pondicherry is a far-flung area and is scattered in between three States of India, namely Pondicherry and Karakal regions in Tamil Nadu. Mahe (800 kms away from Pondicherry) in Kerala and Yanam (890 kms away from Pondicherry) in Andhra Pradesh. The people, traders, administrators and other sections of the society have to interact with the people of other regions. Unfortunately, these four regions are ill connected by Railways. Pondicherry, the capital city of the Union Territory is not well connected even by an express train with the neighbouring Chennai city. The movement of people is highly hampered by the lack of railway facilities. The territory is making rapid strides in industry, trade, tourism and education and if proper railway facilities are not provided, the dynamism of Pondicherry would be really halted. Therefore, the Ministry of Railways should prepare a comprehensive railway development plan for Pondicherry taking into account the geographical peculiarities of the Territory and a separate Budget should be earmarked for this purpose.